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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Assistance to Mozambique

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 45/227 of 21 December 1990 on assistance to Mozambique, the General Assembly, inter alia:

(a) Appealed to the international community to continue to provide relief aid, in particular urgent food aid and logistics support, so as to improve distribution capacity and prevent further widespread starvation;

(b) Drew the attention of the international community to the non-food sectors, the funding of which continued to lag, particularly in the areas of relief items, agriculture, health, assistance to returnees and institutional support;

(c) Called upon Member States, regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide and expand technical, financial and other material assistance to Mozambique wherever possible, and urged them to give priority to the inclusion of Mozambique in their development assistance programmes;

(d) Invited all appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to maintain and increase their current and future programmes of assistance to Mozambique;

(e) Requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the financial, technical and material assistance required by Mozambique; to continue to coordinate the work of the United Nations system, in close cooperation with the Government of Mozambique, in the implementation of the country's emergency and rehabilitation programmes; and to prepare, on the basis of consultations with the Government of Mozambique, a report on the implementation of the emergency and rehabilitation programmes for that country and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. The present report has been prepared in compliance with the latter request, and includes information communicated to the Secretary-General by entities of the United Nations system, Member States and other donors concerning assistance rendered by them under the terms of the resolution.

II. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SUPPORT OF MOZAMBIQUE EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES

3. The United Nations has played a lead role in the mobilization of international support for Mozambique for over a decade. The Office for Emergencies in Africa assisted in drawing international attention to the needs which arose as a result of the drought that affected Mozambique in 1983/84. By late 1986 the combined impact of natural disasters and civil strife had resulted in a situation where 3.2 million Mozambican peasants had been displaced or affected within the country. The provision of food and other

basic commodities was necessary to avert widespread starvation. The Secretary-General, in response to the urgent request from the President of Mozambique early in 1987, launched an international appeal to support Mozambique. He also appointed the resident coordinator of the United Nations system's operational activities for development in Mozambique as the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations.

4. The Office of the Special Coordinator works closely with the Government and, in particular, with the National Executive Commission for the Emergency, which has established an Emergency Operating Committee chaired by the Commission Coordinator, the Vice Minister for Cooperation. The Office has aimed at integrating the objectives of the emergency programme with those for economic rehabilitation and development. While ensuring a certain degree of coordination within the donor community, it has continued its efforts to maintain a permanent dialogue among the Government, donors and the United Nations.

5. Supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the Special Coordinator, in partnership with the Government and United Nations agencies, carries out inter-agency assessments which form the basis for joint appeals that define the requirements of the emergency programme. To date, four such emergency appeals have been issued.

6. As part of an effort to promote the gradual integration of the emergency programme within the overall economic and social rehabilitation process, a programme of emergency requirements was prepared by the Government, in consultation with the United Nations, for presentation at the World Bank Consultative Group meeting on Mozambique, in December 1990. United Nations inter-agency missions also assisted in the preparation of the emergency programme document for the Consultative Group meeting in December 1991.

7. Immediately after the signing at Rome, on 4 October 1992, of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, a mission from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs was dispatched to Mozambique to establish a comprehensive mechanism that would ensure a more effective response to the emergency situation, especially in the light of new realities. The Peace Agreement promises not only an effective and expeditious expansion of the emergency programme but also its gradual merger into the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. It should, however, be borne in mind that Mozambique is currently affected by one of the most severe droughts of this century.

8. In May 1992, the United Nations, jointly with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) launched a consolidated appeal for the drought emergency in southern Africa for 10 countries in the southern African region, including Mozambique. At the same time, an appeal was launched at Maputo, which presented the priority requirements for the internally displaced and the drought-affected populations.

III. EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR 1992/93

9. By December 1990, it was estimated that 1.9 million internally displaced Mozambicans needed emergency assistance, an increase of 600,000 from the 1.4 million persons targeted by the 1990/91 emergency appeal, presented in April 1990. However, subsistence production in the central provinces of Manica and Sofala was severely reduced by continuing drought, which started early in 1971. Joint United Nations/government missions have confirmed that 300,000 additional people in the two provinces are in need of relief food. On the basis of a needs assessment made in November 1991, which covered the crop year 1992/93 (May 1992 to April 1993), it is estimated that of the 4 million internally displaced and war-affected people, 1.8 million depend on relief and about 1.8 million Mozambicans are refugees in neighbouring countries.

10. The drought, together with the prolonged conflict, has doubled the threat of famine and mass starvation facing the Mozambican people. As a result, there are significant population movements towards the coastal areas, secure districts and provincial towns. This is particularly noted along the Beira and Limpopo corridors, two areas that were covered by the partial cease-fire agreement between the Government of Mozambique and the Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (RENAMO) signed at Rome in December 1990.

11. Information supplied by the Provincial Emergency Commissions and data obtained from various organizations working at the local level indicated that the emergency needs had to be reassessed. A joint assessment mission to Mozambique of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), in March/April 1992, confirmed the almost total failure of the principal cereal crops (maize, rice, sorghum and millet) in the central and southern provinces. Since this was the second consecutive year of drought in the normally surplus provinces of Manica and Sofala, most households had no food or seed stocks.

12. The mission recommended that 1.3 million additional persons be included as beneficiaries of the emergency programme until the end of the next crop season (May 1993). This raised to 3.1 million the total number of persons in need of direct support from the emergency programme in 1992/93. Supplementary feeding and nutritional interventions requiring additional food aid were also recommended.

A. Food aid

13. In October 1991, it was estimated that 267,000 metric tons of relief food would be required for the crop year 1992/93 for a beneficiary population of 1.83 million. However, in April 1992, these estimates were almost doubled, to 460,500 tons, to take into account the drought. This brought the total food aid needs to 1,316,050 tons for 1992/93, including food for market and special feeding programmes.

B. Reserve stocks

14. The various appeals for emergency assistance have emphasized the importance of building up a reserve stock of some 60,000 tons of maize, to expedite action for an adequate response to the rapidly changing situation. Although the establishment of this minimum food reserve has not yet been possible, it would provide a vital back-up in the case of delayed deliveries of pledged food aid or other food supply crises.

15. Since the whole of southern Africa needs to import food grains over the 1992/93 crop year, purchases to establish the buffer stock would have to be made outside the region.

C. Security and logistic constraints

16. The war has stripped the country of much of its economic and social infrastructure. This severely constricts the Government's already limited capacity to respond quickly and effectively to the emergency situation.

17. The enormous task of distributing emergency relief supplies is managed by the Department for the Prevention and Combat of National Disasters, the government agency responsible for the delivery of relief goods to the beneficiary level. The distribution of emergency relief supplies in Mozambique involves the use of ships, boats, trains, trucks and aircraft, all of which have specific limitations and relatively high costs. Road transport capacity, however, remains the most critical capacity constraint, whether for local handling and port clearance, inter-provincial inland deliveries or province-to-district distribution to population centres. While the Department operates a fleet of trucks, the projected quantities of food aid required in 1992/93 would need more than twice the current capacity of the Department for delivery to the beneficiaries. Commercial vehicles must therefore be hired and the distribution mechanism for relief assistance to an expanded beneficiary population adjusted and refined accordingly.

18. However, the most serious constraint on the delivery and distribution of relief supplies is the security situation. At least six Department drivers have been killed in the past year and 11 trucks destroyed in attacks during the first quarter of 1992. Hence, while it is indeed the Government's policy to contract commercial transport services to cover the gap in the Department's transport capacity, the prevailing security situation makes commercial road haulage to some areas in Mozambique an unattractive proposition, particularly in the absence of both insurance cover and compensation. Truck owners, therefore, concentrate their activities in the larger towns or other safe areas.

19. The rapid changes in the security situation also cause difficulties. When the Tete corridor came under attack in early 1991, traffic for Malawi and Minassa and other Mozambican border areas had to be rerouted through Zambia, causing delays in delivery and huge increases in costs.

20. Of the country's 128 districts, a total of 74, with 1.9 million beneficiaries, require convoys with armed escort for supplies to get through. The security conditions constitute a serious limitation on any increase in relief operations. Delays in turn-around time and a resulting decrease in fleet efficiency and tonnage delivered are caused by the need to organize and undertake armed convoys. The number, size and frequency of the convoys is directly related to the number of manned escort vehicles available for this duty. The Government has consistently requested support from the international community to cover the costs of the required protection, vehicles and fuel.

21. As the drought conditions worsen, convoys of food and relief commodities will increasingly be a target for attack in both rural and urban areas. Hence, whatever improvement there may be in the joint efforts of the Department for the Prevention and Combat of National Disasters and private transporters, it is unlikely that there will be any major increase in the distribution rate unless better security arrangements are in place. For a number of reasons, including its high costs, airlifting is a last resort operation.

22. It is estimated that emergency assistance to Mozambique for the 1992/93 programme will amount to more than US$ 400 million. Transparency and accountability in the use of these funds is a concern of both the Government and donors. Specific problems have arisen with respect to counterpart funds paid on market food aid and the diversion of goods. Many of these problems reflect the very difficult circumstances which exist in Mozambique. However, measures have been introduced which have greatly improved the ability of donors and the Government to monitor the external resources made available.

D. Health and nutrition

23. The health sector has to respond to the specific health needs resulting from a prolonged armed conflict, as well as from the current severe and widespread drought. Malnutrition was a cause for concern even before the drought. Now the depletion of the water reserves will contribute to the deterioration of public hygiene and the spread of disease. The drought conditions are likely to cause increases in such illnesses as diarrhoea, cholera, bubonic plague, meningitis, malaria and conjunctivitis.

24. The food shortages resulting from the drought will aggravate the already poor nutritional state of the population. Nutritional surveys are now carried out in all 10 provinces and the results are published in a quarterly bulletin, which is widely circulated among government departments, United Nations organizations, donors and non-governmental organizations. No major starvation crisis was reported in 1991, the first time in three years. None the less, over 90 per cent of the nutritional surveys carried out in 1991 indicated high rates of severe malnutrition. As the drought has become more severe, deaths from hunger and hunger-related diseases have been reported in Manica, Sofala, Inhambane and Gaza provinces.

E. Water supply and sanitation

25. The National Rural Water Supply Programme has attempted to build capacity to satisfy the basic potable water requirements of the displaced and returnee populations, and of the rural war-affected population. The provision of clean water to areas where displaced people are concentrated is still a major priority. The Programme has been running parallel programmes for well construction and for the rehabilitation of existing systems, despite major constraints in funding and security. The drought is now compounding the problems of providing safe drinking water. UNDP and a number of non-governmental organizations are involved in giving assistance to displaced and returnee populations in the construction of latrines.

F. Relief and survival items

26. Relief and survival items include clothing, blankets, soap, cooking sets, water containers, buckets and tarpaulins. Many displaced persons are virtually destitute, wearing old sacking or even tree bark to cover themselves. This destitution itself adds to the trauma caused by the events which led to their being displaced. The provision of relief and survival items to the displaced and returnees is necessary for hundreds of thousands of families to reconstruct their lives with a minimum of dignity.

G. Agricultural production

27. Food crop production in Mozambique shows a chronic deficit because of the continued war situation. The drought has further reduced household-level production. Seed supply for 1992/93 will be a major problem. In December 1991, the needs for the Emergency Seed and Tool Programme were estimated at 11,400 metric tons of seed to benefit 464,000 displaced families. However, the displaced families who should benefit from the seed and tool programme now number 576,000, in addition to 487,000 drought-affected families. The requirements in seeds have consequently increased to almost 26,000 tons, more than double the requirements estimated in December 1991.

28. The need for agricultural hand tools was estimated at 1.9 million units in December 1991. The estimates for hand tool requirements for displaced families have now risen to 3.2 million units. The peasants in many parts of the country have old, worn tools, which makes cultivation extremely difficult. The loss of crops and consequent loss of income because of the drought leaves the peasants without the resources necessary to buy tools for the next crop season. The additional need because of the drought is estimated at 1.3 million units, bringing the total in requirements for hand tools to 3.5 million units.

H. Returnees

29. The emergency programme in Mozambique has a comprehensive approach of support to internally displaced persons and returning refugees. Initial support in voluntary repatriation and settlement is provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in collaboration with the government counterpart agency, the Support Group for Refugees and the Liberation Movement. After the first three months, the multisectoral emergency programme provides food and domestic items, seeds and tools and support for the re-establishment of social services for both internally displaced people and returning refugees.

30. Under the 1992/93 requirements presented in December 1991, a provisional plan was made by UNHCR for a possible return of 36,000 refugees during the year. The assistance covers basic relief supplies and rehabilitation of returnee transit and settling areas along the border.

31. In the past year, the returnee flow has dropped and in fact many Mozambicans are fleeing to Malawi and Zimbabwe to escape the drought. UNHCR has reported that many are arriving in a very weak and malnourished state with almost no personal belongings. However, given the drought conditions within the region, if the host countries are unable to feed their own populations and food for refugees is reduced, large numbers could begin to return to Mozambique.

IV. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY NEEDS IN MOZAMBIQUE IN 1990/91 AND 1991/92

A. Food aid

32. In crop season 1990/91 (May 1990 to April 1991), relief food requirements totalled 229,000 metric tons for 1.5 million internally displaced persons and returnees, while market food aid needs were 722,700 tons, for a total of 951,700 tons. 1/ Fifty-eight per cent of the total need was pledged (554,172 tons) while 511,686 tons (54 per cent of the requirements) arrived (including carry-overs from 1989/90). Donor response to relief food aid supplied 87 per cent of the needs (200,332 tons), while only 49 per cent of market food aid (353,850 tons) was pledged.

33. For 1991/92 (May 1991 to April 1992), relief requirements of 270,000 tons for 1.9 million beneficiaries were presented to the Consultative Group meeting in December 1990. An additional 688,775 tons were requested for market food aid, bringing the total to 958,775 tons. Seventy per cent (606,377 tons) of the total need was pledged, an increase of 52,205 tons over 1990/91. Relief food aid pledged increased by 63,045 tons, to 263,377 tons. This increase can be attributed partially to the positive response of the international community to a special drought alert in early 1991, covering the provinces of Sofala and Manica in which two donors pledged an additional 25,000 tons. On the other hand, total market food aid pledges decreased slightly, to

343,500 tons. Arrivals in 1991/92 decreased,, to a total of 449,847 tons (including carry-over) or only 52 per cent of the total requirements. Again, the international community responded more positively to relief food aid needs, pledging 95 per cent of the need. Some donors supported shipments and local purchases of maize and beans in some provinces, thereby reducing transport costs. The European Economic Community (EEC), the United States of America and WFP were the principal donors in this sector.

B. Logistics

34. Requirements in the logistics sector were estimated at $US 33.9 million in 1990/91 and $25.5 million in 1991/92. These were for internal transport and storage of relief supplies, principally food aid. In 1990/91, $19.4 million was pledged (57 per cent of the requirements). Such underfunding of the logistics sector curtailed relief deliveries. CARE International, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has provided technical assistance to the Logistics Support Unit of the Department for the Prevention and Combat of National Disasters.

35. In the 1992/93 drought emergency programme, donors are requested to meet the costs of delivery of relief food to the provincial capitals or other agreed upon extended delivery points, so as to enable the Department's fleet to concentrate on delivery to the district and community level. Some donors and non-governmental organizations are planning to distribute food directly to beneficiaries.

C. Agriculture

36. The distribution of seeds and agricultural hand tools to the internally displaced population and returning refugees is crucial to all self-sufficiency efforts. In 1990/91, 8,400 tons of seeds and 875,000 hand tools were requested for 300,000 targeted beneficiaries in all 10 provinces. This sector received $11.8 million against the initial requirement of $8.1 million. It was thus possible to increase the number of beneficiary families to 392,880.

37. In 1991/92, the programme aimed to reach more families who were able to return to their land, particularly in the populous northern provinces of Zambania and Nampula. Some 530,000 families were targeted and funding for 11,400 tons of seeds and 2 million agricultural hand tools was requested. Much of the seed was purchased locally within Mozambique or through the national seed company. Over $10 million was pledged for seeds (105 per cent of needs). Fund disbursement delays for purchases and deliveries will result in a portion of these seeds and tools contracts being used in the 1992/93 crop season. The tool component was severely underfunded, which has caused serious problems in many areas of the country. Only $2.5 million was pledged (58 per cent of requirements), but stock unavailability within the country also limited distribution. Lack of support for internal administration and the transportation of seeds has reduced the efficiency and coordination of the

programme. Bilateral agencies, in particular the Norwegian Agency for International Development, the Swedish International Development Authority and USAID, are major donors in this sector. Non-governmental organizations play an important role in all aspects of promoting agricultural recovery.

D. Health

38. In 1990/91 the emergency requirements included small projects for the rehabilitation of health services, vital medicines and emergency medical supplies, nutritional rehabilitation, programmes for children in difficult circumstances and support for the Emergency Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Health. A total of $10.4 million was requested and $9.3 million (89 per cent of requirements) was pledged. An additional $561,000 was pledged for related emergency health projects.

39. In 1991/92 the health sector requirements were valued at $6.1 million for provision of medical supplies for the displaced population, of which $5.5 million (68 per cent of requirements) was pledged. Emergency health services are integrated within the national health system and, therefore, donor support is also allocated through bilateral agreements and ongoing development assistance. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are among the main channels of support.

E. Water

40. In 1990/91, 10 small drinking water supply projects were presented, for a total value of $910,200; of these, four projects, totalling $328,000, were funded. An additional $655,000 was pledged for rural water supplies in other areas. In 1991/92, three water projects were presented within the emergency programme for a total value of $3 million, and $209,000 was pledged for the projects in Manica, Gaza and Nampula. UNICEF is the lead implementing agency working with the government Rural Water Department.

F. Education

41. In 1990/91, $1.2 million was requested for educational materials for internally displaced children and $1.3 million was pledged. In 1991/92 $1.5 million was requested and $2.1 million was pledged for educational materials for free distribution to displaced schoolchildren.

G. Returnees

42. The flow of returning refugees has diminished as the security situation along the border areas has become more precarious. In 1990/91, of $6.6 million requested for this programme, $4.5 million was pledged (68 per cent of needs). In 1991/92 the total requirements were estimated at

$7.7 million, but because there was little movement of returning refugees support dropped to $3.9 million, or 51 per cent of the requirements. Nevertheless, the institutional capacity must be established within Mozambique to receive the 1.5 million Mozambican refugees in neighbouring countries.

H. Institutional support for emergency management

43. External assistance is still required to build up and backstop the Government's capacity to manage the emergency programme at the central and provincial levels. In 1990/91 $3.3 million was requested for technical assistance in emergency planning and management (central and provincial level) and for the Logistics Support Unit of the Department for the Prevention and Combat of National Disasters, operating centrally and in all 10 provinces. Of this, 85 per cent ($2.5 million) was provided. A major UNDP trust project, in cooperation with WFP, to provide United Nations advisers to the Provincial Emergency Commissions has successfully been implemented in Nampula, Sofala, Tete, Manica and Zambezia provinces. UNDP has provided funding for technical support to the National Executive Commission for the Emergency.

44. In 1991/92, $5 million was requested to continue the support and expand provincial level assistance, but only $2.7 million was pledged. The principal donors were Canada, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, through the United Nations system. USAID supports the Department through CARE International. The Swedish Government provided for UNICEF consultancies and for workshops on logistics and financial management and disaster preparedness.

V. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE

45. The total value of development assistance disbursed in Mozambique in 1990, as reported to UNDP Maputo, amounted to US$ 1,118 million. This includes humanitarian aid and relief amounting to 15.3 per cent of the total. Total disbursements of development assistance reached a new peak in 1990, 17.4 per cent higher in nominal terms than the value reported in 1989 and double the nominal value of assistance reported in 1983.

A. Types of development assistance

46. In 1990, 26.9 per cent of total development assistance disbursements was classified as programme and budgetary aid and balance-of-payments support. Another 21.4 per cent of disbursements was classified as investment project assistance. Free standing technical cooperation accounted for 19.1 per cent of total disbursements in the reporting year, while 8.2 per cent of disbursements were classified as investment-related technical cooperation. Food aid was estimated to amount to 5.5 per cent of total disbursements. This seems low in view of Mozambique's dependence on food aid for the market sector and free distribution. Disbursements of emergency and relief assistance amounted to 18.6 per cent.

B. Distribution of assistance

47. Five major recipient sectors can be identified, accounting for 71.3 per cent of total disbursements, namely, industry (17.7 per cent of total disbursements), humanitarian aid (15.9 per cent), international trade (16.3 per cent), agriculture (12.5 per cent) and transport (9.6 per cent). Despite the large number of donors, most external assistance is provided by a small number of donors, the top 10 accounting for 77.1 per cent. Bilateral donors provided 71.6 per cent of reported external assistance in 1990, the remainder being provided by non-United Nations multilateral organizations (11.1 per cent), the United Nations system (11 per cent) and non-governmental organizations (5.2 per cent).

48. The most important donor in 1990 was Sweden with reported disbursements of US$ 119.2 million, 10.7 per cent of total disbursements in the reporting year, followed by EEC, Italy, the USSR, France, the International Development Association, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Norway and Portugal. Sweden was also the leading donor in 1989 and 8 of the top 10 donors of 1989 are included among the top 10 for 1990. Over the last decade the leading donors have been fairly consistent, with France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom figuring prominently in development cooperation reports since 1982. Following Mozambique's accession to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in 1986, assistance from the United States also increased rapidly. Eastern European countries, including the former Soviet Union, did not submit data for the development cooperation reports prior to 1988, though from the late 1970s until 1990 they were major donors. Within the United Nations system, the leading donor was the World Bank, which accounted for 53 per cent of United Nations system disbursements, followed by WFP (13.6 per cent), UNDP (13.4 per cent), IMF (10.4 per cent) and UNICEF (3.6 per cent).

C. Non-governmental organizations

49. Owing to poor reporting of development assistance activities financed by non-governmental organizations, it is impossible to provide detailed information. In the reporting year 1990, non-governmental organizations provided external assistance totalling $65.1 million, equivalent to 6.2 per cent of total external assistance disbursements. Moreover, data on disbursements financed by non-governmental organizations, including funds from core budgets financed by bilateral agencies, underestimate their importance in development activities within Mozambique, since non-governmental organizations frequently act as executing agents for bilateral and multilateral donor agencies.

50. There is a clear difference in the orientation of development assistance between non-governmental organizations and other sources of external assistance. The available data indicate that 95.4 per cent of disbursements financed by such organizations were provided to the social sectors, compared

to 31.4 per cent for all donors. By far the most important sector for non-governmental organizations is humanitarian aid, which accounted for 72.4 per cent of external assistance disbursements financed by those organizations in the reporting year. In this sector, non-governmental organizations account for 27.7 per cent of total disbursements. They were also important sources of finance for projects in the area development sector, where they accounted for 20.7 per cent of all disbursements. Area development is the leading sector for non-governmental organizations development assistance, accounting for 38.9 per cent of all non-humanitarian aid disbursements. Many non-governmental organizations - and bilateral and multilateral agencies involved in the financing of those organizations as executing agencies - believe that their flexibility gives non-governmental organizations a comparative advantage in this sector.

VI. ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBER STATES

A. United Nations organizations

United Nations Children's Fund

51. The activities of UNICEF have included the provision of essential drugs, supplementary food, education, and relief supplies for displaced and drought-affected populations. In addition, special projects are in process to enhance rural water supplies and provide for war-traumatized and other children in especially difficult circumstances, and to promote the management and logistical capacities of the Department for the Prevention and Combat of National Disasters at district and provincial level.

United Nations Development Programme

52. The combination of war and drought continues to plague Mozambique and to call for massive relief efforts, including efforts on behalf of the more than 3.5 million displaced persons and millions of others who must depend on international food aid. Coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance efforts is carried out through the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations. This position is held by the UNDP resident representative, and major support for the coordination functions is provided by UNDP.

53. The UNDP resident representative assists the Ministry for Cooperation in the coordination of external aid and technical assistance programmes. In addition, UNDP provides technical assistance to the major coordinating bodies, namely, the Ministry for Cooperation, the Ministry for Planning and the Ministry of Finance and, most recently, in support of the post-war planning exercise coordinated by the National Reconstruction Commission. To assist in the planning and aid coordination at the provincial level, UNDP will also lead the national programme for the decentralization of the planning system. The

largest part of the UNDP third country programme has been executed by FAO in agricultural research, training, extension, planning and fisheries.

54. The United Nations Development Fund for Women, with UNDP support, has initiated a pilot project on integrated village development, focusing on access to credit. The United Nations Capital Development Fund focuses on road rehabilitation (to be implemented by the International Labour Organisation) and a rural water supply project to be implemented by UNICEF in the northern provinces. Every effort has been made to programme United Nations Volunteers specialists closely with UNDP activities under indicative planning figures as a means of providing cost-effective technical assistance. A major national conference on sustainable development and the environment was assisted by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and UNDP. UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and WFP have worked closely with other United Nations agency teams in the programming and implementing of feeder road programmes and projects in forestry, the emergency programme, population planning and demographic survey, food security, malaria control, post-war planning, rural water supplies, the social action programme, and a maternal and child health and family planning programme. UNDP collaborates with WHO in the national AIDS programme. Finally, UNDP has executed a major industrial policy study with UNDP funding.

United Nations Environment Programme

55. The 1990 Memorandum of Agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Mozambique provides the framework within which UNEP has offered substantial assistance for the strengthening of the Environment Division, the Government's principal body for all environmental management efforts. Within this framework, UNEP is providing Mozambique with support in the areas of environmental legislation and coastal zone management. UNEP is also assisting Mozambique in the establishment of an environmental management programme and also in the setting up of a geographic information system.

World Food Programme

56. The World Food Programme has continued to give high priority to providing assistance to Mozambique, both for development purposes and as humanitarian emergency assistance. The current level of WFP assistance amounts to $57.4 million in food aid and logistics support, of which $28.2 million is utilized in the support of primary education and the forestry sector and about $39.2 million for emergency feeding of displaced people.

57. Recognizing the need to provide additional support in the rehabilitation of rural infrastructure such as roads and to improve the food security situation, WFP has formulated two new development projects, which will provide additional assistance amounting to $3.3 million, for a period of four years.

58. In response to the joint United Nations/SADC appeal, WFP is providing additional assistance in food aid and internal transportation costs estimated at $71 million for the crop year 1992/93.

59. In addition to direct food aid and cash support for internal transport, storage and handling, WFP has been playing an important role in providing technical advice to the Government in food aid management and coordination of emergency food aid for relief purposes.

Economic Commission for Africa

60. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will deliver advisory services to Mozambique in response to a request from the Government of that country for the establishment of a structured development information system. It is expected that this will be followed by ECA assistance in implementing such a system, including training of national personnel.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

61. Habitat is providing technical assistance to the Government of Mozambique through a UNDP-funded project aimed at developing a long-term programme of support to the urban development and housing sector. The project focuses on the alleviation of urban poverty through development of the peri-urban settlements which are growing around the urban centres as vast numbers of people, including returnees, converge on the towns. The project will (a) provide assistance for the development of an economic base in those settlements through the use of labour-intensive methods to provide and maintain appropriate infrastructural services, community facilities, improved shelter and urban agriculture; and (b) develop the capacity of local authorities and non-governmental organizations to support local enterprise and create income-generating opportunities.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

62. A joint FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission estimated the emergency and other food import requirements of Mozambique as part of the subregional assessment mission during March and April 1992. The report of the mission was transmitted to the international community on 15 April 1992. FAO also provided input to the consolidated United Nations/SADC appeal issued in May 1992 and for the pledging conference held on 1 and 2 June 1992.

63. The FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) continues to monitor the food supply situation in Mozambique and the prospects for the 1992/93 crop, which is to be harvested from March to May 1993.

64. Under its technical cooperation programme, FAO has a project under way on emergency supply of seeds and vegetative materials.

World Health Organization

65. The WHO emergency preparedness programme in Maputo collaborated with the Mozambique health authorities in the training of local health staff, in the preparation for the return of refugees.

66. The organization has supported a number of health-related activities, including the strengthening of health personnel development. Its most recent mission to Mozambique (February 1992) focused on the control of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections, on maternal health and safe motherhood, the action programme on essential drugs and on improving case management by health workers in peripheral health facilities.

67. WHO supported the Government of Mozambique in preparing a 12-year health development plan for Manica province and, in connection with the United Nations/SADC drought appeal, participated in the health needs assessment exercise, in collaboration with other United Nations organizations.

B. Member States

Brazil

68. The Governments of Brazil and Mozambique signed an agreement on scientific, technical and technological cooperation in June 1989.

69. The School of Mines of Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, sent a technical mission to Mozambique from 31 July to 16 August 1991, with a view to evaluating the current situation of the Institute of Geology and Mines of Moatize-Tete.

70. The second follow-up meeting of the Integrated Moatize Coal Project was held at Maputo from 29 October to 1 November 1991 and the Vale do Rio Doce Company formally submitted a pre-viability study on the coal project to the Government of Mozambique. The Brazilian Cooperation Agency also provided support to this project, in coordination with the company, through the designation of a consultant to assist in the strategy for the technological and financial viabilization of the coal project.

71. Under the terms of a bilateral agreement, Brazil admits Mozambican students into Brazilian universities. Currently, there are 76 such students taking graduate and postgraduate courses in Brazil.

China

72. In 1991, China provided Mozambique with relief materials valued at US$ 30,000.

Cuba

73. Cuba has offered to send 76 medical doctors to provide free medical assistance in Mozambique. Of that number, 36 Cuban doctors are already working in different communities in Mozambique.

Denmark

74. Danish emergency assistance to Mozambique in 1991 amounted to DKr 43 million, of which DKr 13 million was channelled through UNHCR and DKr 30 million through Danish non-governmental organizations.

Germany

75. In 1990, official development cooperation with Mozambique amounted to DM 38 million. Of this sum, DM 30 million was for financial cooperation, of which DM 10 million was earmarked for structural adjustment programmes and DM 20 million for projects to promote small and medium industries and for the rehabilitation of the 33 kilovolt substation at Maputo. The remaining DM 8 million for technical cooperation is used to finance projects to promote institutions (Ministry for Cooperation), to help cushion the social impact of the structural adjustment programme by advising the Ministry for Planning, and to promote the private sector.

76. In 1991, a programme totalling DM 68.5 million was agreed upon. This represented an increase of approximately 80 per cent, which made it possible to continue numerous programmes initiated by the former German Democratic Republic. Of this amount, DM 46 million has been committed for financial cooperation, including DM 15 million in quick disbursing funds to support structural adjustment activities. The newly agreed upon projects of financial cooperation benefit the sectors of energy (33 kilovolt transformer station at Nampula), transportation (electrification of the port of Maputo), and social infrastructure (water supply, Mocuba). The DM 20 million committed for technical cooperation is used for measures to strengthen the development bank Banco Popular de Desenvolvimento institutionally and for projects of rural development, health and education. DM 2.5 million serves to support a project to reintegrate Mozambican workers once under contract in the former German Democratic Republic.

77. These funds were complemented in 1990 and 1991 by 7,000 and 7,500 tons, respectively, of wheat, equivalent approximately to DM 1.8 and 1.2 million, respectively, in relief food aid.

78. In addition, five scholarships were financed in each of these two years.

79. In line with the needs of Mozambique, the German Government has in the past made considerable efforts to ease Mozambique's debt load. In 1989, a debt release agreement was concluded for the entire official debt of

Mozambique, of DM 180 million accrued under the financial cooperation programme. All new commitments are non-repayable grants.

Norway

80. In 1991, total assistance amounted to about US$ 70 million, of which the regular bilateral development assistance programme was about $40 million, international humanitarian assistance efforts about $2 million and assistance to refugees and human rights programmes about $2 million.

81. In 1992, total development assistance is projected to reach about $60 million. In addition, humanitarian and refugee assistance will be continued, having reached a total of almost $7 million during the first half of the year. As far as development assistance is concerned, the regular bilateral development assistance programme will amount to $38 million. As a part of this programme, support will be given to rural rehabilitation programmes. The main priority areas for the programme will be energy supply, fisheries, coastal transportation and health. With respect to humanitarian relief efforts, in the first half of the year a little less than $4 million has been disbursed. With respect to assistance to refugees and human rights programmes in the first half of the year, about $3 million has been disbursed.

Poland

82. Over the years Poland has granted scholarship for university studies to Mozambican citizens. During the present academic year there are 24 students from Mozambique. The annual cost of education of one student is US$ 4,000.

Saudi Arabia

83. Aid to Mozambique from the Government of Saudi Arabia was 150 tons of dates in the amount of 300,000 Saudi riyals, offered in the year A.H. 1410 (A.D. 1989/90).

Sweden

84. Disaster relief assistance amounting to SKr 118.24 million was allocated during the fiscal year 1990/91. From the country programme, an additional SKr 75 million, approximately, was set aside for this purpose during the same period. Concerning disaster relief for the fiscal year 1991/92, approximately SKr 33 million has been allocated. Disaster and reconstruction assistance within the country programme will amount to approximately SKr 100 million for the fiscal year 1991/92.

Turkey

85. Turkey has sent a draft technical cooperation agreement to Mozambique and proposals for training programmes in Turkey.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. Programme aid

86. To assist Mozambique in the purchase of essential imported commodities, such as oil, fertilizer, and machine spare parts the United Kingdom has given £12.5 million in balance-of-payments support since the beginning of 1991; £7.5 million was transferred in March 1991, the remaining £5 million being transferred in March 1992. Both grants are being managed by the World Bank.

2. Project aid

87. In March 1991 the United Kingdom committed £6.3 million to assist in the rehabilitation of the Matola oil and grain jetties at Maputo port. The difficult security situation, particularly outside the main centres of population, has restricted the opportunities for further investment in new projects.

3. Emergency relief

88. United Kingdom bilateral emergency and small-scale rehabilitation aid commitments to Mozambique and Mozambican refugees in surrounding States, since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/227, total £19.28 million, as set out below.

Non-food aid emergency assistance

89. In 1991 we provided £2.166 million in support of our regular emergency programme, mostly channelled through British non-governmental organizations, which provided emergency supplies of seeds, tools, clothes, blankets and cooking utensils to displaced and war-affected people in Mozambique and the surrounding States.

90. So far in 1992 (until 17 June) we have committed £1.6 million of emergency relief in response to the severe drought, for the provision of trucks, seeds and non-cereal food aid.

Small-scale rehabilitation

91. In the 1991/92 financial year, £0.605 million was committed to non-governmental organization projects relating to the rehabilitation of the district and provincial health, agriculture, engineering, water and planning sectors.

92. In 1992 (until 17 June) we committed an additional £0.65 million in support of these continuing programmes. Of this amount, £500,000 was committed to a UNICEF rural water programme.

Bilateral food aid

93. In 1991 we committed £4 million for the provision of 22,500 tons of cereal food aid, for distribution to internally displaced people in Mozambique and Mozambican refugees in the surrounding States.

94. So far in 1992 we have provided £5.9 million for the purchase of 25,000 tons of cereal food aid for distribution in Mozambique and to Mozambican refugees in Malawi.

95. In 1991 we committed £3.26 million of humanitarian assistance to refugees in surrounding States, £3 million of which was in support of UNHCR programmes, mainly in Malawi.

4. Technical cooperation

96. Technical cooperation supports our continuing projects and provides United Kingdom-based training to an annual value of around £1.1 million.

Notes

1/ The emergency appeal of 1990/91 did not include 722,800 tons of food aid for market distribution, but in the 1991/92 emergency programme all food aid needs (market and relief) were presented. Therefore both market and relief food needs have been analysed, to make consistent comparisons. The closing reports prepared by the office of the Special Coordinator included all food aid so as to evaluate the complete food security situation.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS: HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/100 of 14 December 1990, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of humanitarian assistance for the victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations and the primary role of sovereign States in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within their respective territories.

2. The General Assembly stressed the important contribution made in providing assistance by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working impartially and with strictly humanitarian motives and invited all States whose populations were in need of such assistance to facilitate the work of those organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines and health care, for which access to victims was essential. The Assembly appealed, therefore, to all States to give their support to those organizations working to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance.

3. In paragraph 8 of resolution 45/100, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to pursue the necessary consultations with Governments and intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations with a view to determining means of facilitating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance to the victims of natural disasters or similar emergency situations, including the establishment of relief corridors and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

4. In paragraph 9 of the resolution, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to study the possibility of preparing, on the basis of information furnished by Governments and the relevant governmental and non-governmental international organizations and taking into account the work already done in that area by the United Nations, an indicative list of persons and bodies with expert knowledge of the delivery and management of emergency humanitarian assistance whom the United Nations could call upon, with the consent of the States concerned, to make an accurate and speedy assessment of the needs and a realistic determination of the best means of delivering the aid.

5. The consultative process for the preparation of the present report has been based on informal meetings and questionnaires sent to Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

6. The information provided should also be seen in relation to resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 for which a separate progress report will be submitted to the General Assembly.

II. FACILITATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS

A. Access to victims of emergencies

7. The debates leading to the adoption of resolution 45/100 are an important indication of the deep and genuine concern of the international community about the right of a human being in need to receive humanitarian assistance and about the difficulties in the way of its delivery. The multitude of acts of civil violence and in particular the ever increasing radicalization of positions of the warring factions in ethnic and civil conflicts are seen by many as particularly alarming characteristics of the situation, because they threaten even the underlying principles of humanitarian law, which had previously allowed such institutions as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to access at least part of the affected populations.

8. General Assembly resolution 45/100 represents a major step forward in the international debate on the issue of access. Abandonment of victims of natural disasters and emergencies is a threat to human life and an offence to human dignity. Access to victims is essential.

9. Although recognized as essential, the issue of access to victims of emergencies has to be seen in relation to the principle of sovereignty. It has been noted that the discussions in different forums on the improvement of the delivery of humanitarian assistance invariably reached the point where they came into opposition with that principle. At the summer session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council, for example, several delegates referred to the problem in the context of the reorganization of the United Nations efforts in disaster relief, stressing the territorial sovereignty of their countries,

and insisting on the need to obtain the consent of Governments prior to the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Different viewpoints on this crucial issue persist among Governments, international and non-governmental organizations.

B. Relief corridors

10. There is overall agreement about the usefulness of relief corridors as a means to reach people trapped by armed conflicts and civil disturbances. Agreed upon by all parties of the conflict, these "corridors" are temporary in their existence and geographically defined. They were set up and successfully used by relief personnel from international and non-governmental organizations, for example, in the Sudan, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Somalia and Yugoslavia.

11. Relief corridors are seen by the international community as an important instrument to back up the right of civilians to receive assistance during armed conflicts, which is recognized in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977. There is consensus among intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as within the Red Cross movement that those most widely ratified international instruments fully cover the need for legal principles governing humanitarian actions and interventions. What is needed, however, is greater respect for the implementation of those instruments. Unfortunately, however, the growing pattern of civil strife in recent years, which often involves parties that do not recognize or refuse to abide by the instruments, has made their implementation increasingly difficult.

12. Recent attacks on relief convoys and personnel resulting in the tragic loss of life have caused deep concern among national and international relief agencies. In their opinion the limit of tolerable exposure of their personnel to the perils of armed conflicts may soon be reached. It is strongly believed that the respect of ratified international instruments of humanitarian law has to be enforced more effectively, not only for the safety of the personnel, but, in the first place, for the victims of conflicts. It is also observed that quite often a Government's control over its territory is limited, with large tracts of country in the hands of armed groups having taken to banditry. Even in such circumstances, a Government cannot be completely absolved from its responsibility vis-à-vis its population and towards international and national personnel working out of humanitarian motives to assist all sections of the population in acute need. It should do all in its power to facilitate the work of all concerned.

13. The use of relief corridors by the personnel of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in humanitarian assistance is done in a strictly neutral and impartial way. There is, however, not only a wide gamut of humanitarian organizations, but also a considerable diversity in operational styles, principles and scopes of activities. As a possibility to streamline this diversity for the ultimate benefit of the victims of

emergencies, the concept of a code of conduct for organizations active in humanitarian assistance in armed conflict is currently being discussed. In that respect a considerable amount of conceptual groundwork has been done by several organizations. Their efforts are under discussion among relief practitioners.

14. Although the value of relief corridors as a "breakthrough" mechanism to access victims of emergencies is beyond debate, their limitation in time and geographic scope may be considered by some as a drawback. It is true that corridors allow to reach only a rather small portion of the needy population because of their territorial confinement, whereas the movements of warring factions in conflicts tend to disperse the civilian population, but there is no question that corridors are an indispensable tool in the successful delivery of humanitarian assistance to conflict zones. It is recommended to widen the concept of relief corridors whenever possible, by seeking political solutions, including conflict-solving measures, as indicated in resolution 45/100.

C. List of persons and bodies with expert knowledge in emergency humanitarian assistance

15. In paragraph 9 of resolution 45/100, the Generaly Assembly invited the Secretary-General to study the possibility of preparing an indicative list of persons and bodies with expertise in emergency management whom the United Nations could call upon to carry out rapid needs assessment and to determine the best means of delivering aid. In its resolution 46/182 the Assembly goes beyond this recommendation by requesting, in paragraph 27 of the annex, that the United Nations should establish a central register of all specialized personnel and teams of technical specialists, as well as relief supplies, equipment and services available within the United Nations system and from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The consultations carried out in the context of resolution 45/100 considered the problem within that larger context and resulted in some indications as to the nature and scope of that part of the register which concerns human resources. The discussions also referred to a number of initiatives the Department of Humanitarian Affairs-Geneva had already taken in that area, in particular the compilation of a Directory of International Search and Rescue Teams and the project of a register of stockpiles of disaster relief items available for international assistance.

16. Most of the operational United Nations agencies as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and government services engaged in international relief activities have their own rosters of emergency specialists. Experience shows that these rosters require considerable financial resources and manpower to ensure regular updating, training of the experts included and quality control. During the consultations the possibility of effectively managing and updating a sizeable central roster was discussed, and general concern was expressed about (a) whether it was designed to include all relevant information on individuals and bodies as provided from

multiple sources, including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and Governments; and (b) whether it intended to cover the wide range of expertise that might be needed in various types of emergencies.

17. Questions were also raised regarding the usefulness of such a central list in view of the possible duplication with rosters that already exist and that are maintained by each operational agency in its field of competence. It was therefore suggested that the creation of a detailed central list might be extremely difficult, time-consuming and costly. The overall advantages stemming from its establishment would have to be mapped out and weighed carefully before the relevant provision of resolution 46/182 could be implemented.

18. Some of the parties consulted were, however, of the opinion that it might be more useful for the United Nations to develop a decentralized network of rosters on disaster management expertise. The focal point of such a network of rosters existing within the United Nations family, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and Governments would provide pertinent information on a number of key items, for example 24-hour contact points, fields of expertise covered, modalities of cooperation with the United Nations or with disaster-affected countries, and means to access, through a shared computerized system, more specific knowledge sought and required for the occasion. In case of an emergency calling for special expertise from the international community, it could thus be identified and mobilized quickly. The responsibility for updating and maintaining data on individuals and bodies included in each roster would, however, remain with the individual agencies or organizations in charge. Consideration was given to the feasibility of having critical components of the network being made available to the interested disaster management community world wide through the United Nations International Emergency Network (UNIENET), an electronic network with disaster-related information managed by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs-Geneva.

19. In order to strengthen the capacity for immediate assessment at the onset of an emergency, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs is studying the possibility of creating United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Stand-by Teams. This idea, for which a number of Governments have indicated interest and support, is closely linked to the concerns expressed in paragraph 9 of resolution 45/100 and the recommendations made in resolution 46/182. The establishment of UNDAC teams, under the authority of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, would aim at facilitating the international response to an emergency by providing support to Governments of disaster-affected countries in the immediate on-the-spot assessment of damage and humanitarian needs and the subsequent collation and distribution of relevant data as well as in the initiation of on-site coordination of international relief operations.

20. The UNDAC concept, as it is currently discussed, would imply that the Deparment of Humanitarian Affairs-Geneva, in close cooperation with national emergency relief services, would identify skilled and experienced persons, together with its regular staff, for the establishment of a stand-by cadre that would form a core group of UNDAC mission leaders. United Nations agencies concerned, together with IFRC and other non-governmental organizations, would be invited to participate in UNDAC missions, as well as in the preparation and training for such missions. In consultation with the national authorities, the UNDAC team would advise the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Department of Humanitarian Affairs resident representative on needs for international assistance and on possible channels for its delivery.

21. The above considerations suggest that a decentralized network of rosters on disaster management expertise as well as the further development of the UNDAC concept could form essential elements in the implementation of proposals contained in resolution 45/100 and of the overall strategy outlined in resolution 46/182 for an improved stand-by and coordination capacity of the United Nations system in humanitarian emergency assistance.

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QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 46/41 A of 6 December 1991, the General Assembly reaffirmed the principle that the international community was entitled to information covering all aspects of Antarctica and that the United Nations should be made the repository for all such information in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/88 A, 42/46 B, 43/83 A, 44/124 B and 45/78 A; reiterated its call upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to deposit information and documents covering all aspects of Antarctica with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereof to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. Accordingly, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the States Parties 1/ to the Antarctic Treaty asking them to reply in pursuance of paragraph 4 of resolution 46/41 A as soon as possible but not later than 29 May 1992.

3. On 12 May 1992, the Secretary-General received the following note from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations responding on behalf of the States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty:

> "The Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit enclosed two English-language copies of the final report of the Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, which took place at Bonn from 7 to 18 October 1991."

4. A summary of that report follows below.

II. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF ANTARCTICA RECEIVED FROM THE ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE PARTIES

5. The final report of the Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (available upon request within the Secretariat) contains comprehensive information about different aspects of Antarctica.

6. Accordingly, the agenda reflects, inter alia, that the following issues were taken up:

A. Operation of the Antarctic Treaty system:

- Inspections under the Antarctic Treaty;
- Environmental monitoring.

B. Human impact on the Antarctic environment:

- Waste disposal;
- Marine pollution;
- Implementation of environmental impact assessment procedures.

C. The Antarctic protected area system:

- Proposals for new sites of special scientific interest (SSSI);
- Proposals for new marine sites of special scientific interest;
- Changes to existing SSSIs and specially protected areas (SPA);
- Prop- ls for new SPAs;
- Proposals for specially reserved areas (SRA);
- Proposals for multiple-use planning areas (MPA);
- Review of the system;
- Historic sites and monuments.

D. Promotion of international scientific cooperation:

- The role of Antarctic science in understanding the global environment, including depletion of the ozone layer;
- Antarctic Science Conference, Bremen 1991.

E. International Antarctic scientific and logistic cooperation:

- Measures for scientific and logistic cooperation in Antarctica;
- Comparability and accessibility of Antarctic scientific data;
- Siting of Antarctic stations;
- Tourism and non-governmental expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area;
- Antarctic meteorology and telecommunications;
- Marine hydrometeorlogical services to navigation in the Southern Ocean;
- Cooperation in hydrographic surveying and charting of Antarctic waters;
- Air safety in Antarctica;
- Frequency of future Consultative Meetings and date and place of the Seventeenth Consultative Meeting;
- Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty.

7. The Meeting also received reports from the following:

(a) The Chairman of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);

(b) The head of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in his capacity as representative of the Depositary Government of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals;

(c) The President of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR);

(d) The head of the delegation of the United States of America in his capacity as representative of the Depositary Government of the Antarctic Treaty;

(e) The Chairman of the Tenth Antarctic Treaty Special Consultative Meeting;

(f) The Chairman of the Eleventh Antarctic Treaty Special Consultative Meeting;

(g) The Chairman of the Meeting relating to article 8 (7) of the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities;

(h) The Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations in his capacity as Convenor of the informal group of Treaty parties;

(i) The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

8. The Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting was seized of the question of future action with regard to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. In this connection, the absolute priority of the earliest possible ratification and entry into force of the Protocol was stressed.

9. The Meeting discussed working papers submitted by the United States and Japan, and an information paper by Uruguay on the establishment of an Antarctic Treaty secretariat. It was noted that widespread support existed for the establishment of a small, modern, cost-effective secretariat, responsible to and under the authority of the Consultative Meetings, to support the operation of the Antarctic Treaty consultative mechanism. The need for a secretariat was mainly based on support for the increasingly complex operations of the Antarctic Treaty consultative mechanism; circulation of information and facilitation of the implementation of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. No consensus was reached on the immediate establishment of a secretariat and the Meeting postponed further consideration of the question until the next Consultative Meeting.

10. The Meeting also reviewed the problem of human impact on the Antarctic environment. There was a general discussion of waste disposal, marine pollution, implementation of environmental impact assessment procedures and protection of fauna and flora. The Meeting noted that the problem of marine dumping should be monitored, and that particular attention should be paid to it in further considerations relating to marine pollution, as required by recommendation XV-4.

11. On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty and the development of the Antarctic Treaty system, it was noted that the international cooperation in Antarctic scientific research had steadily and progressively increased. In that context, it was noted that the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty had designated Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science.

12. The Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting adopted a series of recommendations concerning the establishment of new sites of special scientific interest, specially protected areas, areas protection and management.

13. The Meeting also recommended to the Governments of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties that an informal meeting of the parties should be convened with a view of making proposals to the Seventeenth Consultative Meeting on the question of a comprehensive regulation of tourist and

non-governmental activities in Antarctica. This would be in accordance with the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and its annexes. It would also take into account the proposals made at the present Sixteenth Consultative Meeting, including proposals for a future annex to the Protocol on Environmental Protection.

14. In a declaration made by the Contracting Parties on the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty, it was reaffirmed that the objective of the Antarctic Treaty was to ensure, in the interest of all mankind, that Antarctica should continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, and should not become the scene or object of international discord. The annex to the Declaration underscores that nations can work together for their mutual benefit and in the interest of international peace and cooperation. It was also asserted that the Antarctic Treaty provided an example of how nations could successfully work together to preserve a major part of this planet, as a zone of peace, where the environment is protected for all and science is pre-eminent.

15. A statement by the CCAMLR observer at the Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting reflected that the current levels of fishing was not high; krill was being fished in the Convention Area with a total annual catch of approximately 400,000 tons. It was also noted that most of the krill taken in the South Atlantic was from the Antarctic Peninsula region, the South Orkney Islands and South Georgia, but in spite of that fact the current level of total catch was rather small. However, there was a concern that because fishing was concentrated in a few relatively small areas, it might have a negative impact on krill predators that foraged within these areas. The Scientific Committee had noted that taking account of the current state of knowledge of krill biology and ecology and the ability to estimate its abundance and distribution, it was not then possible, nor likely to be possible in the near future, to provide any more precise estimates of the sustainable yield. Thus, at the 1990 Commission Meeting, it was proposed that precautionary measures should be adopted for krill fishing until such time as more precise information was available. In the opinion of the Commission, this would also be a safeguard for krill predators, and would therefore allow krill fishing to develop in a controlled manner.

16. Although no drift-net fishing had been started in the area, the Commission discussed the prospects and agreed that there would be no expansion of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing into the high seas of the Convention Area. As regards the management of the developing fisheries, the statement of the CCAMLR observer indicated that such development had to be directly linked with the process of elaborating scientific methods and management procedures.

17. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) was supported by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties from the time of the first Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in 1961. Since that time SCAR has provided scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty system. SCAR collaborated in the development of the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora of 1964. SCAR played a special role in the Convention for Conservation

of Antarctic Seals of 1972. It also responded to requests for advice on possible environmental impacts of mineral exploration in reports published in 1979 and 1985. A 15-year international programme, BIOMASS, was formulated in 1976 by SCAR. SCAR's report noted that in the 1980s the activities of environmental pressure groups had led to potential conflicts between environmental protection and scientific activities. The report noted that the media had belittled or ignored SCAR's efforts in environmental protection. SCAR was concerned about the possible diminution of its role in relation to the Antarctic Treaty system and the effect that might have on freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation.

18. The report of the Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting also noted that the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP) was established at Hobart in 1988. COMNAP met yearly at the same time and in the same location as the delegates' meeting of SCAR. Among the objectives of the Council were to review on a regular basis operational matters and exchange information; to examine, discuss and seek possible solutions to common operational problems; to review, with appropriate SCAR working groups and groups of specialists projected programmes requiring major international collaboration on operations logistics and to provide appropriate advice to the SCAR Executive; and to respond to requests by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and SCAR for information advice and comment.

19. In his report to the Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, the COMNAP representative noted, inter alia, that, in addition to scientific issues, which had been ably handled by SCAR, the Treaty was faced with a growing number of operational issues: environmental protection, commercial uses of the Antarctic (tourism) and an expanding number of national programmes that were required to put the Treaty agreements into practice. It was also noted that there was an increasing need to coordinate and make effective logistic support for the expanding scientific programmes being planned for the next decade noted in the report of COMNAP. Moreover, several international programmes that contain significant Antarctic components were being advanced through a non-governmental organization, the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU): the World Climate Research Programme, the Joint Global Ocean Flux Study and the International Geosphere - Biosphere Programme. Other programmes initiated by SCAR include the Antarctic lithosphere studies, Ecology of the Antarctic Sea Ice Zone, Biology of Terrestrial Antarctic Systems and so on. COMNAP and the Standing Committee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations have established a regular dialogue in which the logistic needs of the Antarctic science community were shared and reviewed, as noted in the report of COMNAP.

20. In 1989, COMNAP created a subgroup to prepare a workshop with the aim of establishing practical guidelines for the environmental assessment process in Antarctica. The workshop was held in Italy in 1991 and attended by national programme managers of 21 countries with more than 50 environmental, legal, scientific and logistics experts. The workshop prepared a final text of the guidelines and two recommendations to COMNAP. The first recommended practical guidelines that should be used in the initiation and subsequent preparation of

Antarctic environmental assessments by national Antarctic programmes. The second recommended that a regular forum for the discussion and development of Antarctic environmental matters be established within COMNAP.

21. The stated goals of the practical guidelines were to provide managers of national Antarctic programmes with an explicit and concise standard for the implementation and review of environmental assessment procedures. An additional purpose of these guidelines was to assure that the development of such mechanisms and associated procedures were fully coordinated among the national Antarctic programmes so as to be comparable, effective and justifiable. It was also hoped that these guidelines could serve as an aid to non-governmental organizations proposing activities in Antarctica. The guidelines have been forwarded by COMNAP to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting for possible adoption, as expressed in its recommendation XV-1 adopted at the Paris Consultative Meeting.

22. Following the report of COMNAP in 1989, and in response to Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting recommendation XIII-4, a SCAR panel of experts, with the involvement of national operating agencies, produced a definitive report on waste disposal including a proposed comprehensive code of conduct. As a result, recommendation XV-3, concerning the human impact on the Antarctic environment ("Waste disposal"), was adopted. Format and procedure for the waste management report were further discussed and adjusted during the third meeting of the Standing Committee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations, held at Bologna from 20 to 22 June 1991.

23. A subgroup on oil spill prevention and response was established by the Standing Committee in 1990. The subgroup developed a series of recommendations on oil spill prevention and response, which were considered and adopted at the 1991 COMNAP/the Standing Committee meetings at Bologna.

24. COMNAP undertook a project to design a concise "Visitors' Guide to the Antarctic". The guide has been adopted and has been translated into several languages. It is designed to be placed in every cabin of every tourist ship bound for Antarctica and at every Antarctic scientific station.

25. In the three years since its establishment, COMNAP, as noted in the final report of the Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, has developed as a useful forum for direct and effective communications among the national operators. The Council has undertaken the kinds of collective strategic study and planning necessary for the provision of sound advice for the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. As a result it has rapidly become an essential element in the Antarctic Treaty system.

26. The report of the Sixteenth Meeting also indicated that the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), comprising more than 200 member organizations in 45 countries, participated in the Meeting. Its report noted, inter alia, that the Treaty parties' commitment to "the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems" is the beginning of a new period in the evolution of the Antarctic Treaty. ASOC has

endorsed the designation of Antarctica as a "natural reserve, devoted to peace and science" and looks forward to working closely with the Treaty Governments and other observers to implement it.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

27. Information outlined in documents available, particularly those provided by Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, have addressed several aspects of Antarctica. The final report of the Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting details scientific research and initiatives pursued and developed over the last 30 years. In that regard, it should be noted that international cooperation has been achieved at the level of Governments, some United Nations specialized agencies and programmes, and relevant international and non-governmental organizations.

28. Documents submitted, such as those summarized above, appear to reflect that the existing Antarctic Treaty system continues (a) to foster international cooperation; (b) to adapt to changing environmental priorities; and (c) to elaborate new mechanisms in line with innovative scientific research. They also indicate interest in renewed global efforts in line with increased public awareness, particularly as regards Antarctic ecosystems, and growing world-wide environmental concerns.

Notes

1/ The States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty are the following (underlining indicates consultative status): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

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Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 66

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By its resolution 46/41 B of 6 December 1991, the General Assembly noted with regret the continuing participation of the apartheid minority regime of South Africa in meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, and "appealed once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the apartheid minority regime from participation in their meetings at the earliest possible date until such time that the abhorrent system and practices of apartheid minority domination are totally eliminated in South Africa".

2. In that resolution the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking into account the concern expressed in paragraph 2 of resolution 46/41 B.

3. Accordingly, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the States Parties 1/ to the Antarctic Treaty asking them to reply in pursuance of paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution 46/41 B as soon as possible, but not later than 30 May 1992.

4. On 28 May 1992, the Secretary-General received the following note from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, responding on behalf of States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty:

> "The Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, acting on behalf of the States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's note No. PAD/92/46/41B of 25 February 1992 concerning the General Assembly resolution (46/41) of 6 December 1991 on the question of Antarctica.

"The Permanent Representative of Germany has the honour to recall that the note of the Mission of Australia of 1 July 1987 on behalf of States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty was concerned with the same matter. The note continues fully to reflect their position."

5. The note to which the Permanent Representative of Germany makes reference is reproduced in a previous report of the Secretary-General (A/42/587).

Notes

1/ The States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty are the following (underlining indicates consultative status): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 27

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 14 October 1992 from the Permanent Representatives of France and Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request the distribution as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27, and of the Security Council of the communiqué issued following the XVIIth Conference of Heads of State of France and Africa, held at Libreville from 5 to 7 October.

(Signed) Dennis Dangue REWAKA
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Gabon
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Communiqué issued at Libreville on 7 October 1992 following the XVIIth Conference of Heads of State of France and Africa

The XVIIth Conference of Heads of State of France and Africa was held at Libreville from 5 to 7 October 1992 at the invitation of Mr. Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic. Thirty-six States took part in the Conference.

The presence for the first time of the Republic of Cameroon was unanimously welcomed.

Having learned of the indisposition of Mr. François Mitterrand, President of the French Republic, the Heads of State and delegation requested Mr. Pierre Bérégovoy, Prime Minister of the French Republic, to be kind enough to convey to him their wishes for a prompt recovery.

The Heads of State and delegation exchanged views on the main developments taking place in Africa and in the world. Against this background they considered the political, economic, social and cultural prospects of their countries.

The Heads of State and delegation welcomed the great effort to achieve democratization made by many African countries in recent years. They stressed the need to give priority to negotiation and dialogue so as to afford full freedom for the exercise of universal suffrage.

Peace, security, democracy and development are inseparable. Particular emphasis was placed on the close link between democracy and development.

The need to ensure social justice, to pay particular attention to the most disadvantaged, to health and to the environment and to obtain fairer payment for raw materials was forcefully recalled.

In this respect, the Heads of State and delegation expressed the hope that the negotiations under way on coffee and cocoa would be conducted in a spirit of solidarity, partnership and flexibility so that they would be brought to a rapid conclusion satisfactory to all parties concerned.

The Heads of State and delegation took note of the ongoing efforts of the African States to overcome the serious economic and financial crisis which continues to undermine their economies. They pointed out that an improvement in the situation, in Africa as elsewhere, depends in large measure on enhancing the efficiency of government and public sector management and on a more favourable financial and economic environment.

They recognized the need for more sustained economic growth. In that connection, the Heads of State and delegation reiterated their common desire

to strengthen cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions (the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank) within the framework of structural adjustment programmes. If such programmes are to be implemented more effectively, they must be designed within a medium-term framework. Resources on concessional terms also must be mobilized more effectively, and the social dimension, as well as adjustment requirements, must be taken into account in the countries concerned, in order to ensure the success of the democratic process now under way.

The Heads of State and delegation noted that, notwithstanding the progress made with the support of the international community, indebtedness compromised expectations for economic recovery, without which lasting development could not be achieved. They called on the industrialized countries to continue their efforts to reduce the debt burden of the African countries.

They expressed the hope that international financial institutions would take the special situation in Africa more fully into account and welcomed the establishment by France of a debt conversion fund for development for the middle-income countries of sub-Saharan Africa. They encouraged France to continue those efforts.

Economic activity in Africa must proceed within a broader framework and in a more modern legal context. Regional and subregional cooperation and integration within Africa form an essential link which can energize the entrepreneurial spirit and individual capabilities. Instruments for cooperation and institutions to foster integration are major assets already in place on the continent.

The Heads of State and delegation underscored the importance of the role of women in the development process of their countries. They took note with interest of the Bamako Declaration and invited all African Heads of State to extend concrete support to all activities undertaken in the context of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held at Beijing in 1995, in particular, at the African regional conference to be held at Dakar in 1994.

They recalled that the franc zone provided an element of economic and monetary stability conducive to exemplary cooperation. They reaffirmed their desire to maintain the existing rate of exchange between the French franc and the CFA franc, and expressed the hope that the progress registered with respect to integration and convergence in that context would be consolidated and expanded.

They approved the plan to harmonize business law devised by the Finance Ministers of the franc zone, decided that it should be implemented immediately and called upon Ministers of Finance and Justice in all countries concerned to accord it priority.

The Heads of State and delegation reiterated their desire to see further political progress towards the establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

They deplored the consequences of the civil wars in Liberia and in the Horn of Africa and urged a negotiated solution to all such fratricidal conflicts. They accordingly encouraged the States members of the Economic Community of West African States to continue their efforts to restore peace and stability in Liberia, and welcomed with interest the proposal by President Diouf before the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-seventh session to convene an international conference to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Somalia under the auspices of the United Nations and in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the European Economic Community and all countries concerned. They expressed the hope that the competent United Nations bodies would consider the proposal without delay.

The Heads of State and delegation welcomed the signature, on 4 October 1992 at Rome, of a peace treaty for Mozambique. They also welcomed the fact that negotiations were under way between the Government of the Rwandese Republic and the Patriotric Rwandan Front and encouraged the two parties to reach a global agreement which would restore peace in Rwanda and ensure respect for its territorial integrity.

With regard to the Tuareg problem, they welcomed the signature of a national covenant at Bamako on 11 April 1992 and encouraged all parties to work through democratic institutions to bring peace, security and stability to the region.

With respect to Angola, they urged all the parties to honour the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Estoril accords and to continue along the path outlined therein.

The Heads of State and delegation paid tribute to the Organization of African Unity for its initiative aimed at establishing mechanisms for the prevention, handling and peaceful settlement of conflicts.

They agreed on the holding of a follow-up meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs at Libreville in June 1993. This meeting will decide the date of the XVIIIth Conference, which will be held in France in 1994.

The Heads of State and delegation welcomed the quality, sincerity and constructive spirit of the dialogue and the climate of friendship and trust in which the Conference took place.

The Heads of State and delegation expressed their sincere thanks to His Excellency Mr. El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, and to the Government and people of Gabon, for the warmth and quality of the welcome extended to them, as well as to their delegations, and for all the consideration shown to them during their stay at Libreville.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Request to the United Nations to observe the referendum process in Eritrea

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted further to my letter to the President of the General Assembly, of 11 June 1992, informing him of a number of developments with regard to the United Nations involvement in a referendum process in Eritrea. In the course of the 30-year war, the Eritreans had made repeated requests that an internationally observed referendum be held in Eritrea to determine the wishes of the Eritrean people regarding their political status. It will be recalled that the Referendum Commissioner of Eritrea had, on 12 May 1992, invited the Secretary-General to send a delegation of the United Nations to observe and to verify the freeness, fairness and impartiality of the entire referendum process, from its beginning in July 1992 to its completion in April 1993.

2. The Conference on Peace and Democracy, which assembled all the political parties and relevant social actors in Ethiopia, met at Addis Ababa from 1 to 5 July 1991 and formally recognized the right of the Eritrean people to determine its political future by the internationally supervised referendum. As indicated in my letter of 11 June 1992, I informed the President of the General Assembly that, in view of the need for further information on which the General Assembly may base its decision and the limited time remaining before the referendum process starts in July 1992, I was dispatching a technical team to gather information for the preparation of a report to be submitted to the General Assembly on the details of a potential involvement by the United Nations in the Eritrean referendum.

3. In this connection a technical team headed by the Director of the Electoral Assistance Unit of the Department of Political Affairs and comprising a senior political officer from the Unit and an officer from the Field Operations Division visited Eritrea for the following purposes:

(a) To discuss with the Eritrean authorities the terms of reference of a possible observation mission to verify the freeness, fairness and impartiality of the entire referendum process, as requested by the Referendum Commissioner of Eritrea;

(b) To obtain information on the proposed organization of the referendum process and on geographical and communication aspects that would be necessary to prepare an operational plan for possible United Nations verification of the referendum process;

(c) To obtain information that would be necessary for the preparation of the cost estimates of the possible observation mission;

(d) On the basis of the previous items, to prepare a report to be submitted to the General Assembly.

4. The technical team, in accordance with its mandate, examined the situation in Eritrea through in-depth discussions with the Referendum Commission, members of the provisional Government of Eritrea and representatives of a wide spectrum of political, social and religious organizations. The team also visited the region of Seraye and the cities of Keren and Massawa, contacting there the local authorities.

5. The technical team was provided with a set of the legal instruments drawn up to regulate the conduct of the referendum and had ample occasion to discuss the matter with the Referendum Commission in long and productive working sessions. The members of the team, on the basis of their experience in other contexts, and of comments received from the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, made a number of technical suggestions aiming at improving some operational aspects of the organization of the referendum or clarifying articles that might be susceptible of misinterpretation. The reaction of the Commission was positive in all cases. On the day of departure of the team, the Referendum Commission issued a press release, clarifying questions related to the participation of organizations and individuals in the campaign period that were raised by the mission.

6. During all their meetings with members of the provisional Government and with representatives of political, social and religious organizations, the mission detected a uniform and strong support for the presence of an observation mission and a desire to have a free and fair referendum process. The team provided the Referendum Commission with detailed information on the characteristics and procedures of a United Nations observation mission, including standard agreements related to the status of the mission as well as its terms of reference. As in the previous case, complete agreement was reached.

7. Given the fact that the referendum to be held in Eritrea and the notion of the international supervision thereof have been supported by the Addis Ababa agreements of July 1991, I conceive of it not only as an important step towards the establishment of democracy but also as an integral part of the consolidation of peace. I am furthermore firmly convinced that this step can contribute decisively to the stability of the region. It is for these reasons, and taking into consideration the historical involvement of the United Nations with Eritrea, that I have decided to recommend the establishment of a United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER). The terms of reference of such mission would, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, be as follows:

(a) To verify the impartiality of the referendum authorities and organs, including the Referendum Commission, in all aspects and stages of the referendum process;

(b) To verify that there exists complete freedom of organization, movement, assembly and expression without hindrance or intimidation;

(c) To verify that there is equal access to media facilities and that there is fairness in the allocation of both the timing and length of broadcasts;

(d) To verify that the referendum rolls are properly drawn up and that qualified voters are not denied identification and registration cards or the right to vote;

(e) To report to the referendum authorities on complaints, irregularities and interferences reported or observed and, if necessary, to request the referendum authorities to take action to resolve and rectify such complaints, irregularities or interference;

(f) To observe all activities related to the registration of voters, the organization of the poll, the referendum campaign, the poll itself and the counting, computation and announcement of the results.

8. In carrying out the above mandate, the Observer Mission will be expected to gather factual information about the conduct of the referendum and, in particular, the decision of the electorate; to recognize that the ultimate judgement about the referendum process will be made by the electorate themselves and that its role will be to take note of the decision of the electorate as they determine their fate in a referendum; to recognize the independent character of the Referendum Commission and establish a relationship with it on that basis; and, in its capacity as observer, to make constructive contributions to ensure the success of the referendum at every stage of the process.

9. Subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the structure of UNOVER could be the following:

(a) Office of the Chief of the Mission (Asmara): a small unit could provide overall political direction to the verification mission. It could maintain contacts with the provisional Government and the Referendum Commission and could deal with political and electoral matters that might arise from the performance of the verification functions;

(b) Regional offices at Asmara, Keren and Mendefera: each regional office could be headed by a regional coordinator, who could be assisted by two electoral officers, and could be in charge of the verification activities in its jurisdiction;

(c) Mobile teams located at Asmara and Keren: there could be two teams of two persons each located in these cities to make periodic visits to areas that fall outside the jurisdiction of the regional offices, so as to cover the totality of the country.

10. Given the peaceful situation in Eritrea, the organization of the referendum effort already carried out by the Referendum Commission, and the lack of evidence of political tensions or conflictual positions in relation to the Referendum, it is considered that a total of 21 international staff, supported by local personnel, would be a sufficient number to fulfil adequately the verification functions.

11. If approved by the General Assembly, the UNOVER referendum observers, during all three phases, would monitor and evaluate the operations and impartiality of the referendum authorities at all levels. UNOVER would similarly evaluate the fairness of all significant decisions of the referendum authorities and would investigate disputed actions taken by them. The regional teams would have regular contact with community leaders and social organizations, and would visit municipalities and villages throughout the country; they would monitor registration by making random visits to registration centres; they would observe rallies and other referendum-related activities; and they would verify compliance by all parties with the referendum proclamation and with the code of conduct. The mechanisms through which broadcasting time would be allotted to those registered for its use and the content of information broadcasts would also be observed. A mechanism would be created to receive complaints by individuals or organizations participating in the referendum process, analyse their relevance and transmit them to the referendum authorities for appropriate action.

12. Three main phases of the referendum process are foreseen: the registration of voters (possibly starting during the second week of September); the referendum campaign and the poll itself, which is scheduled to take place in April 1993.

13. During the polling itself, 60 observation teams of two persons each, that is, a total of 120 persons, would be fielded. These teams would have full access to monitor all stages of the poll. The 120 personnel would consist of the approximately 21 staff mentioned in paragraph 10 above; about 50 additional observers to be selected from the United Nations Development

Programme and other United Nations agency personnel at Asmara and in neighbouring countries, plus volunteers from the international personnel of selected non-governmental organizations operating in Eritrea; and 50 additional observers from abroad, contributed by the Secretariat and Member States.

14. Given the nature of the tasks for which UNOVER would be responsible, it would be essential to equip it with a small but reliable communication system to enhance its effectiveness and the security of its functions and personnel. Adequate transport resources would also be required to give it the mobility essential for its effective operation. The need to cover remote areas with the mobile teams makes it essential to include in the budget an amount for air operations. The provisional cost estimates are given in the annex to the present report. The total estimated cost of UNOVER for an eight-month period will be less than US$ 3 million.

15. In view of the imminent start of the registration process, should the General Assembly authorize the establishment of UNOVER, I intend to appoint a Special Representative to take charge of the exercise and to assign two officers to Asmara to undertake the initial stages of the process and provide such support to the Eritrean Referendum Commission as might be required. Once a decision is reached on the matter and the financial implications are approved, my objective is that the full deployment of the mission will be completed during October 1992.

16. In conclusion, I strongly recommend that the General Assembly give its approval for the establishment of UNOVER, on the basis of the considerations addressed above.

ANNEX

Provisional cost estimates of the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea

A. Summary

(United States dollars)

Personnel costs	1 456 600
Vehicle operations	249 800
Air operations	48 100
Premises	76 100
Purchase of equipment	147 600
Miscellaneous supplies and services	72 100
Compensation	400 000
Freight and transportation	29 000
Communications	366 200
Subtotal	2 845 500
Contingency allowance of 5 per cent of subtotal cost estimate for unforeseen items and price increases (funds not to be expended without prior approval of the Director of the Field Operations Division)	(142 275)
Total	2 987 775

(2 988 000 in round figures)

B. Details

1. Personnel costs

Staff members

1. The proposed staffing table for the mission allows for a total of 21 international staff members, as follows: one Special Representative of the Secretary-General (at Assistant Secretary-General level), from 1 September to 30 April; two at P-5 level (Chief Electoral Officer and Chief Administrative Officer), from 1 September to 31 May; one at P-4 level (Finance/Personnel/Procurement Officer); one at P-3/P-4 level (Political Affairs Officer); two Field Service Officers, one being a senior experienced member for the coordination of air movements, transport, accommodation, stores etc. and the other being a radio technician/assistant coordination officer, from 1 October to 31 May; three at P-4/P-5 as coordinators for each of the regional offices and 10 at P-2/P-4 level as observers, from 1 November to 30 April; and one at P-3 level (Assistant Political Affairs Officer), from 1 May to 30 April. Allowance is also made for 20 observers seconded from the Secretariat (10 from New York and 10 from Europe) for a period of 10 days only.

(a) Salaries. One Special Representative of the Secretary-General for eight months, two x P-5 for nine months, two x P-4 for eight months, two Field Service Officers for eight months, three x P-4/P-5 and 10 x P-2/P-4 for six months, and one x P-3 for two months: $610,000 (estimate);

(b) Subsistence allowance. 3,900 man-days for 19 staff, comprising 80 man-days for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (eight visits each of 10 days) and 200 man-days for the 20 observers; the total number of man-days is 4,180, at $101 per person per day (current rate of mission subsistence allowance): $422,180;

(c) Travel costs. Estimates are based on return airfares from New York, with an allowance for each member to carry 10 kg excess air baggage and to send 100 kg of personal effects by air freight: $3,900 per member for airfares plus $500 per person for air freight; the 20 observers for 10 days are costed at $3,900 from New York and $1,900 from Europe: $150,400;

(d) Official travel. The estimate is based on the Special Representative of the Secretary-General visiting the mission once every month, from New York (one visit is already included in subparagraph (c) above); allowance is also made (airfares and subsistence allowance) for two visits (say four days in the country) by two officers from the Electoral Assistance Unit: 11 x $3,900 = $46,200.

Member State observers

2. Allowance is made for 30 observers from Member States, for whom costs are limited to travel to and from the mission and subsistence allowance for 10 days while in the area. The cost estimates are based on 20 observers

coming from Europe and 10 from North America; for budget purposes, it is assumed that the United Nations is responsible for travel costs:

(a) Travel costs. (20 x $1,900) + (10 x $3,900) = $77,000;

(b) Subsistence allowance. For a total of 300 man-days at $101 per person per day: $30,300.

Other international observers

3. Allowance is made for 50 observers recruited from the international personnel of UNDP and selected non-governmental organizations located in Eritrea and neighbouring countries, and for 20 of these observers to travel from Addis Ababa; costs for subsistence allowance are estimated for five days only:

(a) Travel from Ethiopia. Twenty air tickets from Addis Ababa to Asmara and return: $24,000;

(b) Subsistence allowance. For a total of 250 man-days at $101 per person per day: $25,300.

Local employees

4. The proposed staffing table for the mission allows for a total of 123 local employees, comprising two secretaries/interpreters and two drivers from 1 September to 31 May (nine months); one secretary/interpreter and two drivers from 1 October to 31 May (eight months); five interpreters and five drivers from 1 November to 30 April (six months); and 53 interpreters and 53 drivers (these figures include an allowance for three reserve drivers and interpreters) for an estimated period of five days:

Salaries. Monthly salaries, in birr, are based on advice from the World Food Programme (WFP) representative in Asmara and are: secretary, 900; interpreter, 500; driver, 900, plus an extra 20 birr per day when away from Asmara. Total cost estimates, excluding estimates for time away from Asmara, are as follows:

Secretaries/interpreters: (2 x 9 x 900) + (1 x 8 x 900) = 23,400 birr

Interpreters: (5 x 6 x 500) + (53 x 500 x 5/30) = 19,500 birr

Drivers: (2 x 9 x 900) + (2 x 8 x 900) + (5 x 6 x 900) + (53 x 900 x 5/30) = 65,600 birr

The total cost is 108,500 birr. At the current official exchange rate (US$ 1 = approximately 2 birr), the total cost is $54,300, or $60,000 including allowance for time away from Asmara and hire of cleaners etc.

Consultancy service

5. Allowance is made for the services of a consultant, for about three weeks, to assist with the counting aspects of the referendum. The cost estimate is based on salary, travel and per diem: $11,121, approximately.

2. Operating costs

Vehicle operations

6. The proposed vehicle requirement is as follows: two four-wheel-drive vehicles from 1 September to 31 May; two from 1 October to 31 May; five from 1 November to 30 April; and 53 for a period of five days in April. The requirement for two vehicles in early September will probably be met by hiring vehicles in Asmara; in the early stages sedans will be adequate, possibly even taxis. However, a total of nine 4x4s need to be purchased by 1 November, five for the five observer teams and the other four to be used by the Headquarters/support staff. The latter four vehicles will also provide a reserve holding for the observer teams, if required. The 53 4x4s required for the five-day period are to be hired locally, and the total also allows for a reserve of three vehicles. However, if this number is not available for hire, as is expected, the extra observers and interpreters for the actual referendum period can be transported as far as possible in hired mini-buses, and then ferried forward by the 4x4s available at the time; this is not considered to be a very satisfactory alternative.

(a) Purchase of vehicles. These vehicles will be available for reallocation to any future missions in this region; nine 4x4 vehicles at $19,000 each, plus $1,000 per vehicle for freight from Jeddah: $180,000;

(b) Vehicle hire

(i) Assuming the purchased vehicles can be delivered by 1 November, the cost estimate for hiring two sedans for the months of September and October is: (100 birr per day) x 60 days x 2 cars = 12,000 birr or $6,000;

(ii) Assuming 53 4x4s are available for hire at a rate of 150 birr per day, and over a three-day period each vehicle averages 400 kilometres at 1.50 birr per kilometre, the estimated cost is (53 x 150 x 3) + (53 x 400 x 1.50) = 55,650 birr or $27,900;

(c) Petrol, oil and lubricants. The estimated cost for about 78 vehicle months (purchased and hired vehicles) is: 78 x (eight refills per month) x (60 litres per refill) x 0.75 birr per litre = 28,080 birr or $14,000;

(d) Vehicle repairs and maintenance. Twenty-four maintenance staff are currently employed by WFP. These mechanics are servicing vehicles for other United Nations agencies in Asmara at a rate of $10 per hour or $15 per hour for overtime. The estimated cost for 3.5 hours of service per month, by WFP mechanics, for nine vehicles for eight months is $2,500;

(e) Vehicle insurance. Six vehicle years at $380 per vehicle is $2,300 (it is assumed that the hired vehicles have insurance cover included in the hire cost; consequently separate allowance is not made);

(f) Spare parts. As there are few spare parts available in the country, provision is made for fast-moving items (e.g., all types of filters, brake parts etc.) to be purchased and shipped at the same time as the nine 4x4s. The estimate is 10 per cent of the vehicle purchase price: 9 x 10 per cent x $19,000 = $17,100.

Air operations

7. Allowance is made for chartering a light fixed-wing aircraft, once a month, at a rate of $3,700 per month. The estimate is based on a recent charter by WFP for a flight from Asmara to Assab and Djibouti, and return. The aircraft was a Twin Otter from Eritrean Airways. Allowance is also made for chartering an aircraft on four separate occasions for medical evacuations. The total cost estimate is $3,700 x 13 = $48,100.

Premises

8. It is considered that there is adequate living accommodation (either hotels or private residences) for all personnel in receipt of mission subsistence allowance. No commitment was made by the provisional Government to provide accommodation free of charge to the mission. Therefore, allowance is made for renting office accommodation in Asmara (mission headquarters and Asmara regional centre) and for three teams in outlying regional centres, as a back-up. The estimated requirement in Asmara is 130 square metres (Special Representative of the Secretary-General, 20; two x P-5, 15 each; two x P-4, one Field Service Officer and three secretaries, 10 each; Asmara regional centre, two x P-3, 10 each). The estimated requirement in the outer areas is 20 m^2 per region. The total requirement for office space is 190 m^2. As there may be a requirement for a small stores building, allowance is made for the rental and minor repairs of an existing building within the WFP compound.

(a) Rental. The estimated cost is $6,000 per month for eight months for mission headquarters, $1,200 per month for seven months for the stores building and $1,200 per month for six months for the three regional centres: $63,600;

(b) Maintenance. Allowance is made for cleaning supplies and services as well as any necessary minor repairs (e.g., plumbing, electrical): $2,500 at five different locations, total $12,500.

Purchase of equipment

9. The equipment requirements are as follows:

(a) Data-processing equipment. Two desktop computers ($1,500 each), seven laptop computers ($3,100 each), six bubble-jet portable printers ($550 each), three desk jet printers ($500 each, one as a reserve) and various

software and other accessories ($11,000); the five regional teams each require a laptop computer for report writing, leaving one laptop and two desktops for headquarters and one laptop as a reserve: total $40,500;

(b) Office equipment. Two electronic typewriters ($1,400); one medium-sized photocopier ($2,300); and one over-head projector ($400): total $4,100;

(c) Generators. As most provincial capitals have limited hours in which electricity is supplied (e.g., 1,800 hours to 2,400 hours) allowance is made for a total of five small, portable generators (e.g., Honda gasoline generators at $900 each), one for each of the three regional teams and two for headquarters. The two for headquarters will also provide the reserve for the field. Cost estimate for five generators, cables and spare parts: $6,500;

(d) Office furniture. Allowance is made for a small quantity of desks, chairs, filing cabinets etc. to be purchased locally if not provided by the local authorities: $13,000;

(e) Miscellaneous equipment

(i) Basic camping equipment for the five teams operating from 1 November to 30 April for areas in which accommodation may not be available (tents, stoves, camp cots, sheets/blankets, cooking utensils, jerry cans etc.): $11,500;

(ii) Allowance for camping equipment for 50 per cent of the teams during the referendum, who may be in areas where accommodation is not available: 25 x $2,200 = $55,000;

(iii) Miscellaneous other equipment, including small kerosene refrigerators: $17,000.

Miscellaneous supplies and services

10. Requirements for miscellaneous supplies and services are as follows:

(a) Stationery and office supplies: $7,000;

(b) Medical supplies and first-aid kits for vehicles: $1,800;

(c) Medical services: $7,000;

(d) Operational maps: $4,000 (it is understood that both Czechoslovakia and the Russian Federation were producing maps of Eritrea);

(e) Sanitation and cleaning supplies: $3,500;

(f) Purchase of water supplies: currently water is only available to each residence once a week. Allowance is made for water for toilets in rented office accommodation at the rate of 1,000 litres per day at a cost of one birr per 200 litres; the requirement for an eight-month period is 240,000 litres, $1,000, approximately;

(g) Minor water purification units: $25,000;

(h) Official hospitality: $2,500;

(i) General stores, including United Nations flags and decals, production of identification cards, vehicle number plates, fire extinguishers, compasses, loud hailers, batteries, flashlights and miscellaneous supplies: $17,000;

(j) Subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals: $1,300;

(k) Payment of electricity bills for rented premises; allowance is made for $100 per month for eight months for mission headquarters and $100 per month for three months for each of the three regional centres: $2,000, approximately.

Compensation claims

11. Contingency funds for the settlement of possible claims for death, injuries and disabilities in respect of personnel other than staff members: $400,000.

Freight and transportation

12. Allowance is made for the freight costs of supplies and equipment to be shipped to the mission, and any clearing charges to be paid, when the items are received in Eritrea. Estimated cost: $29,000.

Communications equipment and supplies

13. There is considered to be little requirement for reporting by radio throughout the duration of the mission. Moreover, the internal security situation throughout the country has been very calm for the past 12 months and it is not expected to change in the lead-up to the referendum. However, because isolated areas are to be visited, some form of radio communication is considered necessary for safety purposes only. Discussions with officials of the Telecommunications Authority of Eritrea indicated a requirement for high frequency (HF) radios. In the past month the telephone system, in some areas, has been resurrected and calls can now supposedly be made to all provincial capitals (Massawa direct, Keren through the operator) and overseas. However, there are few lines and consequently, many delays.

(a) External communications. Allowance is made for user charges for the WFP INMARSAT terminal. The estimate is based on a nine-month period, usage of

one hour per day, at a cost of $10 per minute. The total estimate is 9 x 30 x 60 x 10 = $162,000;

(b) Internal communications equipment to be purchased

(i) Nine HF radios ($9,500 each), together with all the equipment needed to have them mounted in vehicles ($1,000 per vehicle): 9 x $10,500 = $94,500;

(ii) One HF base radio for use in a static role inside an office: $9,500

(HF radios may be available from existing missions in either Angola or Kuwait, or possibly from the United Nations Supply Depot at Pisa);

(c) Communications supplies. Spare parts, hardware, batteries, battery chargers, commercial repairs (if beyond the capabilities of the radio technician); the estimate is 7.5 per cent of the equipment cost: $78,000;

(d) Miscellaneous items. Allowance is made for contractual assistance for the installation and dismantling of the radio equipment (radio technicians will install an HF radio in one day for 200 birr); the estimate provides for nine radios and a base station: $3,000;

(e) Commercial communications. The estimates under this heading include:

(i) Telephone rental and call charges: $7,500;

(ii) Pouch services to and from New York: $7,200;

(iii) Commercial telex charges: $4,500.

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 A)

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, adopted resolutions 46/47 A to G of 9 December 1991 concerning the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/46/65, A/46/282 and A/46/522). By resolution 46/47 A, the General Assembly, inter alia, demanded that Israel desist forthwith from a number of policies and practices mentioned in the resolution.

2. On 3 July 1992, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. In paragraph 19 of resolution 46/47 A the Assembly reiterated its call upon all States and upon international organizations, including the specialized agencies, not to recognize any changes carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied territories and to avoid actions, including those in the field of aid, that might be used by Israel in its pursuit of the policies of annexation and colonization or any of the other policies and practices referred to in the resolution.

5. By notes verbale and letters dated 3 July 1992 the Secretary-General drew the attention of all States and of international organizations, including the specialized agencies, to paragraph 19 of the resolution.

6. In paragraph 27 (d) of resolution 46/47 A, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee which were no longer available.

7. In response to paragraph 27 (d) of resolution 46/47 A, the Department of Public Information undertook the following activities:

(a) In a booklet published in Arabic, English, French, German, Spanish and Russian under the title Life of the Palestinians under Israeli Occupation (DPI/1192), the Department of Public Information used extensively material available in reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

(b) The Department of Public Information included in its work programme for the biennium 1992-1993 a provision for the updating of a publication issued by the Department in 1989 under the title Human Rights for the Palestinians (DPI/974) that publicizes the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

(c) The Department of Public Information, both at Headquarters and through United Nations information centres, publicized the 1992 mission to the Middle East of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.